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MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES.

Baltimore, January, 1888.

TO OUR READERS.

It is no less a privilege than a pleasure to talk to earnest, sympathizing friends about an enterprise for whose success they have practically worked; and the editors of MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES desire at the beginning of the third year to tender thanks to their collaborators, and to all well-wishers who have so cheerfully aided them in passing the test-year of a journal's existence. So cordial and liberal has been the support of the undertaking, both on this and the other side of the Atlantic, that the editors feel encouraged to renew their pledge to the public for an advance in the variety and quantity of material to be presented. Two years of experience in editorial matters have shown that the modern languages in America have a scholarly following and that their friends are able and, it is believed, willing to sustain a publication of more extended proportions than that which has hitherto been issued. To prepare the way for this, the price has been increased by one-third, and in the future the NOTES will be conducted on as liberal a scale as this change may warrant. The various publishers both here and in Europe have been prompt, as a rule, in forwarding their recent publications for notice in these columns. With their continued co-operation and that of individual contributors, it is hoped to make the NOTES more and more reflect the wishes, plans and doings of American scholars occupied with modern linguistics in whatever direction, and to bring to their notice all the chief home and foreign publications for the three departments, those of the English, Germanic and Romance languages, especially represented here.

MODERN LANGUAGES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF FRANCE.

I.

Université de France is the name of the vast organization which comprises all establishments of public instruction from the *facultés* of the capital down to the *école maternelle* or infant class of the primary school in the remotest village of the provinces. At the head of this body is the minister of public instruction, who has the title of grand-master of the university. He is assisted by the *conseil supérieur de l'instruction publique*, a council of sixty members, and about twenty *inspecteurs généraux*. To facilitate the administration the country is divided into sixteen educational districts, called *académies*. At the head of each of these, with the exception of that of Paris, is a *recteur*, who in his turn is aided by an academical council and *inspecteurs d'académie*. These authorities watch over all branches of education, and together with the prefects, appoint or dismiss all teachers; the superior council deliberates and prescribes the methods and the plans of study for all schools.

By the side of the university are the *écoles libres*, and in consequence of the law of 1875 now also a few *facultés libres*. The *écoles libres*, especially those directed by the clergy, enjoy still the patronage of a great portion of the nation. The state has excluded all priests and members of religious orders from the public schools, but it cannot interfere with their teaching in their own establishments, as long as they do not violate the laws or the constitution. It has, however, reserved to itself, that is, to the university, the exclusive right of examination for all certificates valuable in public life, and that of conferring all academic degrees.

An important aid for the study of the government schools is afforded by the publication through Delalain Frères of a great number of the plans of study and programs of the conditions of admission to schools and examinations. The publishers have made these particularly valuable by adding many official documents, such as the reports of committees of the Superior Council and regulations of the minister of public instruction, which show both the